

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

March 21, 2006

7:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Duval.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, Garrity, Smith, Forest

Absent: Aldermen DeVries, Thibault

Mayor Guinta stated before we have our speakers I did want to invite the members of the Greek community that are here for a proclamation to come forward led by former Alderman Mary Sysyn. Alderman Gatsas if you could please join us as well. I did want to recognize that this coming weekend, this Saturday, is Greek Independence Day and I wanted to make that presentation here this evening. I do have a proclamation on behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. I am certainly pleased to have Alderman and Senator Gatsas here with us as well as Dick Anagnost, the former Alderman Mary Sysyn and members of the Greek community here to acknowledge this.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in 1821 the brave men and women of Greece began their long and heroic struggle to attain true freedom and liberty through the issuance of the Greek Declaration of Independent; and

Whereas, the struggle for Greek freedom was a long process lasting until the conclusion of World Ward II; and

Whereas, many of the descendants of those brave men and women came to our City and formed a community that is a vibrant and successful part of Manchester’s long history of immigrant citizens; and

Whereas, today’s Greek community can be proud of its heritage as well as its rich cultural identity; and

Whereas, the City of Manchester is grateful for the presence of the Greek community and its contribution to the betterment of our society

NOW, therefore, I, Frank C. Guinta, on behalf of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Manchester in the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim this coming Saturday, March 25, 2006 to be Greek Independent Day in the City of Manchester.

Mayor Guinta stated if you noticed the flag was raised today at a brief ceremony around noon and will stay raised during the weekend.

Alderman O'Neil stated the Greek flag flew with pride on the review stand at the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Guinta requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Eric Sawyer, 40 Wilmot Street, Manchester stated:

I wanted to take the opportunity tonight to talk about the retirement of Tom Lolicata and it presents an opportunity for the City to step forward and hire a true professional traffic engineer. The City has been able to use one for a long time. The City could surely use some good traffic modeling. It is a quality of life issue. I presented a handout to you all and I just want to be brief here and try to highlight a few points. Good traffic modeling for the City and a professional engineer to do it is a truly positive thing in my belief and I think the time has come for the City to step forward and do it. I realize that the budgets are tight and people are concerned about the cost but I used to have a friend that knew the cost of everything and the value of nothing. Don't make that same mistake. Don't be shortsighted and make a long-term decision that will impact the City's quality of life long term based on some shortsighted financial consideration. Thank you.

Katherine Gatsas, 568 Island Pond Road, Manchester stated:

I am here before the Committee this evening to address the ongoing persistent crime in Manchester. During the past municipal election, my campaign for Alderman At-Large emphasized a neglected and failing Manchester Police Department. Manchester's Police Chief, John Jaskolka, has failed to deliver protection insured by the United States Constitution and NH statutes. John Jaskolka's police department is reputed as soft on crime. Many Manchester residents are expressing their outrage and disdain towards the police's callous indifference and their failure to insure a safe community environment necessary for

families to thrive and businesses to flourish. I refer you to today's paper. Mr. Makos reported to me that the Manchester Police took two hours to respond to his request for help. On August 19, 2005 the Manchester Police took five hours and twenty minutes to respond to my calls for help. Small business owners like Mr. Makos and others who maintain businesses outside of the downtown business district are equally protected by the U.S. Constitution and are entitled to police protection. John Jaskolka is obligated by his duties to provide proper training and current technology to insure the safety of not only the public but also the men and women he leads in maintaining community order and defending human life. Mr. Makos complains of no visible police patrol in his West Side neighborhood. There is no visible police patrol in my neighborhood either. When I asked Police Sgt. Charbonneau to provide neighborhood surveillance and to equip the patrolling officer with infrared thermal imaging equipment, Sgt. Charbonneau responded to me "that's Star Wars technology." Charbonneau's response is evidence of his lack of current crime fighting technology. Technology used by police and fire departments throughout our great nation. The infrared thermal imaging camera is capable of detecting the human signature, the human heat signature and would easily find a man hiding behind bushes or possibly a chain link fence. It is disturbing to know that Manchester citizens are denied an affordable life saving, crime-fighting tool because of Jaskolka's outdated attitude. Ignoring violence against women and the oppression of women's rights must end. The selective enforcement of laws and the exclusion of affording citizens equal protection must end. Let's recruit police officers trained and experienced with large metropolitan city crime. It is the right of the public to enjoy open government free of discrimination, free of segregation, and free of practices that fail to keep citizens unharmed. I support the resignation of John Jaskolka, Manchester's Police Chief.

Thomas Myers, 223 Ridge Road, Manchester stated:

The reason for my appearance is I am a member and representative of a group that owns a lot and building located at 953 Union Street situated within the Ward 1 district. I wish to address tonight's agenda item #25 listed under tabled items located on Page 10. This item pertains to the petition to discontinue a portion of Union East Back Street. This item was tabled at the December 19, 2005 road hearing committee meeting. I am simply asking tonight's Board to dismiss the petition in its entirety and not forward this matter on to the road hearing committee for further consideration. As the owner representative for 953 Union Street and the principal abutter to the petitioner, I had attended this December road hearing meeting whereby this item had been tabled. Some of you were in attendance and may remember that I spoke in opposition to the petition. I still do. At that time there were a multitude of questions and issues that were raised regarding this matter such as improper notification to the appropriate abutters, the actual scope of the petition, inaccurate and misleading statements and the lack of a suitable and correct legal document within the petition package. Immediately following this meeting I had the opportunity to meet and converse with the petitioner. It was my understanding when I left City Hall that evening that he intended to rescind the petition. I was surprised that this item still existed and I am

uncertain whether the petitioner still wishes to proceed. I close with the repetitive request for the dismissal of this petition in its entirety and not forward this item on to the road hearing committee for further consideration.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Long it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Long it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk